

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2216

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

YAOUNDE FOR RDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, GA, GW

SUBJ: GABON ACCESS ROADS

REF: (A) ABIDJAN 9000; (B) BONN 15984

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH KFW OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR GABON, EMBOFF LEARNED THAT KFW HAS NOW RECEIVED "FINAL APPROVAL" ONLY FOR THE APPRAISAL OF THE PROJECT RATHER THAN PERMISSION TO SIGN A LOAN AGREEMENT. THE PROJECT APPRAISAL IS THE PURPOSE OF THE OCTOBER TRIP TO GABON BY THE KFW TEAM. THE RESULTANT APPRAISAL REPORT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNMENT GROUP WHICH MUST THEN GIVE PERMISSION TO EXECUTE THE LOAN. SUSPICIONS IN REFTEL A HAVE THUS PROVED TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT. AIDMIN VIEWPOINTS REPORTED REFTEL B NOW APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TOO OPTIMISTIC AND NOT TECHNICALLY PRECISE.

2. BIDDING PROCEDURES FOLLOWED BY GABON GOVERNMENT WERE
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A PROBLEM BUT KFW SEEMS TO THINK SUCH PROBLEMS CAN BE

HANDLED MORE QUICKLY THAN THE APPRAISAL MECHANICS AT THIS POINT.

3. KFW OFFICIALS WERE NONCOMMITTAL ABOUT MEETING MARCH 1ST "DEADLINE". THE DM 30 MILLION IS EARMARKED FOR ROADS PROJECT, BUT KFW PREFERS TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER APPRAISAL MISSION TO GABON BEFORE GIVING ESTIMATES OF WHEN THE LOAN MIGHT BE SIGNED.

4. MR. HUBATSCH OF KFW WILL BE A MEMBER OF THIS MISSION AND HE HAS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE TERMS OF US PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT. HE BELIEVES THAT THE PROJECT TIMETABLE SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY CLEARER AFTER THE OCTOBER MISSION. THUS CONSULTATIONS WITH KFW TEAM AFTER THEIR APPRAISAL SUGGESTED IN REFTEL A APPEAR TO BE THE BEST METHOD AT THIS POINT TO ASSURE PROPER COORDINATION FOR BOTH SIDES.
HILLENBRAND

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